



EMBASSY
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH
AND ANALYSIS FOR THE
SINO-SOVIET BLOC

October 27 1967 30 PM 4 20

CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

James L. Colbert, Esquire
Economic Adviser
Office of Soviet Union Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Jim:

In staff meeting yesterday the Ambassador raised a question which has come up on numerous occasions during the past few years. He asked me whether it is really necessary to go to the expense of cabling in the quarterly plan results in such great detail.

I assured him that I had raised this very question in Washington just before coming to Moscow and was again told that these data are indeed needed by cable. The Ambassador nevertheless would like to know whether these same data are being obtained by FBIS. I told him that it was my understanding that FBIS monitoring is incomplete and that garbles in the numbers occur quite frequently. He then asked whether Washington end-users might not be willing to wait for Pravda (which we understand arrives there in about two days) or whether it would be satisfactory for us to submit the detailed data by airgram. I agreed to look into this by letter to see what might be done.

I would therefore appreciate it if you could review these questions with our major end-users. Possibly the situation has changed so that current reporting practices can be revised. For example, perhaps we could be given a shorter list of the most important data which should be transmitted by cable.

While you are looking into the question of the quarterly plan results, could you also please try to give us some guidance on the extent to which it is necessary to cable in annual budget and plan data?

Many thanks.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Lind
Counselor of Embassy
for Economic Affairs

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE		D.	
REFERENCE SLIP			
TO:	Name or Title	Organ. Symbol	Room No. Bldg.
1.	W. Morrell		
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Approval	Initial for Clearance	Per Conversation	
As Requested	Necessary Action	Prepare Reply	
Comment	Note and Forward	See Me	
For Your Information	Note and Return	Signature	
REMARKS OR ADDITIONAL ROUTING			
<p>Bill:</p> <p>This is a copy of the letter which Colbert sent to me for action.</p> <p>I think if you could work out a shorter list of the most necessary data for both the quarterly reports and for reporting on the annual budget and plan data, this would probably take care of the problem. I wonder if it still would be necessary to report the detailed data by airgram as Ralph suggests?</p> <p><i>Ker</i></p>			
FROM: (Name and Org. Symbol)		ROOM NO. & BLDG.	PHONE NO.
Kenneth A. Kerst INR/RSB		7427	6478

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP		
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2	3G 39 Hq. STAT	
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ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
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Remarks: STAT <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; display: inline-block;"></div> Please draft a response for me to sign to Ken Kerst on this. Check with St/CS. It is important that we not ask for expensive cable services that is not really necessary. SUSPENSE: <u>Thursday, 2 November 67 COB.</u> <div style="text-align: right; padding-right: 50px;"> WILLIAM H. MORELL, JR. Director Economic Research </div> Att: Orig incoming and one copy Letter from Emb Moscow (Lindstrom) to Colbert, State; also backlip from Kerst.		
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER		
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.		DATE
D/OER 4F 18 Hq.		1 Nov 67
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